

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 6, 2015

Agenda Item: Biennial Season Setting Process

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Informational

Time for this Presentation: 20 minutes

Background

Every two years, in odd-numbered years, FWP goes through the biennial season setting process in part to consider changes to the structure of hunting seasons (e.g., types of seasons, season dates, changes to hunting district boundaries, addition or deletion of license types, etc.).

FWP is six months out from the December commission meeting where these season recommendations will be considered. There is always intense interest in the season-setting process. Sometimes that interest includes concern about ample time for local consideration before a proposal is presented to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission.

With that in mind, FWP wants to make sure now that all interests, including the commission, know that they have the chance to offer any ideas or comments early in the process that begins with the Aug. 6 Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting.

FWP invites the commission over the coming month to offer its thoughts and ideas about specific directions for FWP to explore. Moreover, beginning Aug. 6, FWP will provide the public with opportunities to participate online through Sept. 3.

FWP will communicate with local sporting groups, work groups, Citizens Advisory Committees, interested individuals, and more on any developing recommendations and encourage comment and additional ideas in return. This will be especially important if FWP and the F&W Commission propose elk shoulder seasons.

Alternatives and Analysis

Not applicable.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public scoping will run Aug. 6 – Sept. 3. Proposals will be sent to the Game Management Bureau Chief by Oct. 15 in preparation for presentation to the commission in December for approval for additional public comment through January 2016.

Comment opportunities will include 24-hour online access and regional public meetings to be scheduled for the first three weeks of January 2016.

Final commission adoption of any recommended changes will be presented to the commission in February 2016.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Not applicable.

Proposed Motion

Not applicable.